

Treasure Valley Forest Service Retirees

November 2018

Message from the President

By
F. Carl Pence

Another Smokey Summer

The wildland fire situation is certainly different than when most of us started our careers. I thought it worthwhile to consider some of the differences. You can probably add to what my observations are. Here is what I remember as I started my career in the early 1960's.

My early memories of life in central Idaho do not include



times when we experienced several weeks, even months, when the sun was obscured by smoke, and the air we breathed was polluted with it. As I started my career we seldom fought fires on the Challis and Salmon National Forests reaching more than 1000 acres. During that time, I also worked on a horse trail crew in what then was the Idaho

Primitive Area. I remember riding through miles of burned timber and cutting through trails which were clogged with fire killed, down lodgepole pine. When I was working on that trail crew we rode for miles along a ridge full of fire killed trees, I asked the old packer I worked with when those fires occurred and he said it was one he had fought in the 1930's as a CCC worker.

When you consider that, and what things were like as the FS started, there have been times of large historic fires. For example, the wildfires in 1910 and 1930's, when most of North Idaho and Montana burned. I wonder if there could be a cyclic natural phenomenon involved. To me this seems corroborated by the Bristlecone Pine Tree Ring Research I got involved with when I worked on the Humboldt NF in 1970's. We had tree ring core samples of Bristlecone Pines that reflected significant climatic fluctuations during the 4000 + years those trees lived.

Because of that, I'm not a "climate change denier".

Historically, there were significant climate changes. Tree ring research and Geological evidence reflects that. The question today is how much humans are involved in the current climatic changes, and what we can do to reduce a human effect, if it is contributing to it.

Certainly, the amount of CO2 gas and particulates added to the atmosphere with the current annual wildfires could be a factor. That might be something we can change, if we have the political will to do so.

We actually were doing some pretty effective stuff in that regard during my first thirty career years. That involved an active timber management program and livestock grazing, which reduced fuel loading in areas where it was feasible. The early detection and rapid suppression effort called the "Ten AM Policy" also helped stop fires from getting large. That is, we planned and took deliberate action to control a fire by the next 10AM following ignition. And, all employees were expected to contribute, where they could, to the fire suppression effort.

Yes, there were negative effects. Those suppression actions added to the continuity of fuel that today's managers have to deal with. But in the local rural areas a significant economic benefit resulted from the harvesting, thinning, and grazing; and fire wasn't the problem we have today in those areas where our active management reduced fuel by mechanical means.

Compare that with the current fires which consume entire drainages in a one-time event. And, consider the enormous funding to "manage" them, with little, if any, long-term positive effect environmentally.

Then, there are the areas such as, "Roadless Areas, and Congressionally designated Wilderness. I love those areas; however, during one of my most recent career positions, I personally experienced significant negative results as we tried to "manage" a wildfire which started in late July in a Wilderness. The fire formed momentum and spilled outside the Wilderness and did major damage to private and potential commercial public timber-land. We blamed an "unusual" wind event. When are wind events unusual? I wonder at the wisdom that believes those "sacred areas" should be excluded from human ignitions. If the history I learned is correct, Native Americans actually ignited areas deliberately and those areas were probably included. They knew that wildfire was natural and needed to create better conditions for them and the environment. They probably knew when it was wise to start them.

Yes, fire is a natural event, but we do have some control as to where and how hot and large they become. Potentially, the current management philosophy adds to “climate change”. In addition, fire intensity, given current fuel loading and continuity, doesn’t generally improve health of our public forest and range lands, and they significantly add pollution to the air we breathe. ^ϕ

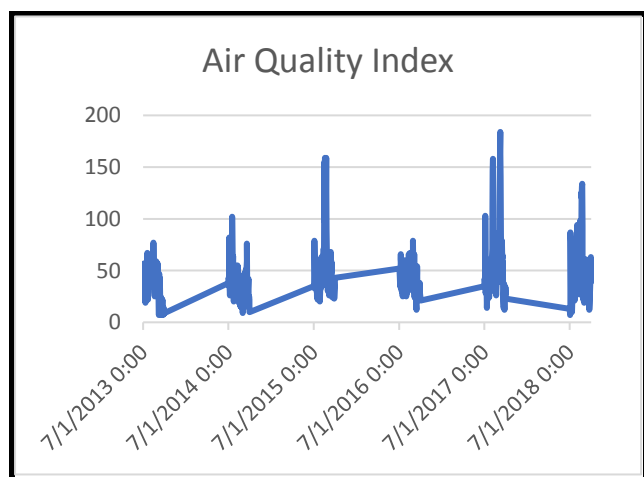
Air Quality Index

The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or unhealthy your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern. The AQI focuses on health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing unhealthy air.

The purpose of the AQI is to help you understand what local air quality means to your health. To make it easier to understand, the AQI is divided into six levels of health concern: ^ϕ

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

**Boise Air Quality
July 2013 to 2018**



An Overview of the Reunion at the Cradle

September 24-28, 2018

in Asheville, NC.

By

Jeannette Hartog, President
Intermountain Old Timers

The Southern FS Retirees Association in conjunction with the USDA FS Southern Region and USDA FS Southern Research Station welcomed FS Retirees from all parts of our Nation. The purpose of the Reunion was not only for visiting, reconnecting and enjoying each other, but also to rediscover (or discover for some) the Birthplace of Forestry in the United States.

There were stories and history of the Pinchot family shared by Bibi Gaston, the great-grandniece of Gifford Pinchot. She shared untold stories of brave souls who launched the American Conservation Movement.

We also heard from Chase Pickering, a great-great-grandson of George Vanderbilt. As a fifth-generation family owner of Biltmore, he shared his family's mission to preserve Biltmore as a conservation effort.

These two speakers set the stage for the week as we explored The Cradle of Forestry in America, the Birthplace of science-based forest management.

We were offered two field trips:



One to the Cradle of Forestry which included a visit to the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center and to the Cradle located on the Pisgah NF. We learned about Carl Schenck and saw his first American forestry school in Pisgah. This unique tour showcased the culture and music of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. We were served a luncheon of local taste treats followed by a local musician and story teller. Great stories, all in attendance won't soon forget!

The second field trip was Biltmore Behind the Gate Tour which took folks behind locked gates to explore



conservation history connections with Gifford Pinchot and Carl Schenck who established the first American forestry school on the Biltmore property. This tour also included the Mansion, gardens and highlighted a limited engagement of Chihuly Glasswork.

We enjoyed a presentation by Lisa Tate, Executive Director of the National Museum of FS History. She shared recent happenings with the Museum to include a premier virtual exhibit which is now available to view at www.forestservicemuseum.org.

The Reunion was a fundraiser for the Museum with new memberships, all proceeds from the Silent Auction and monies left over after expenses will be donated.

A highlight of the week was the Banquet on Thursday evening that featured the Bailey Mountain Cloggers from Mars Hill College in the Mountains near Asheville. They even taught some brave folks to Clog - our group has talent!!

Friday morn saw a tired, but happy group sad to say "Goodbye" to those they had reconnected with during the week. The Southern FS Retirees Association closed out the Reunion by passing the baton and a \$5,000 check to the 2021 Reunion Hostess, Nancy Gibson, of the Pacific Southwest Retirees. The 2021 Lake Tahoe Gathering will be held September 13-17, 2021, at Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, NV.

Never too early to plan to attend!!

This was my first National Reunion, and it was great. My "congrats" to the Southern Retirees for their hospitality and an overall memorable experience! ♡



Judy Hudson at the Ranger Dwelling

Bent Creek Experimental Forest Station

The U.S. Forest Service had put its station at Bent Creek in 1925 because the area had been deemed one of the best examples of an Appalachian mixed hardwood forest. It is the oldest federal experimental forest east of the Mississippi river.

The purpose of conducting research on silvicultural practices that would aid in the rehabilitation of cutover, abused lands and promote sustainable forestry, and also to provide a field demonstration of forest management practices. Long-term and current research conducted at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest provides land managers with science-based information and methods to meet their forest management and restoration goals

It is the oldest federal experimental forest east of the Mississippi river.

The operation started out on 150 acres in the Pisgah National Forest, off Brevard Road. It expanded to 1,100 acres two years later, and reached a 6,000-acre size in 1935.

The [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) borders the Bent Creek

Experimental Forest to the east and south. There are over 44 miles of trails within the Bent Creek Experimental Forest.

Earl Frothingham was the first station director and set about regenerating hardwood stands destroyed by farming and commercial practices.

The Station

sponsored a tour for the retirees with an overview of the Southern Appalachian ecology and geology. Stops included views of old growth stands, fire studies, side-by-side silvicultural treatments, and management solutions. ♡



Bent Creek Ranger Dwelling 1931

"History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future."

Robert Penn Warren

Camp John Rock

One of the earliest of North Carolina's camps was Camp John Rock in Pisgah Forest. Plans were laid for the installation as early as April 1933 and men began arriving from Fort Bragg on May 5 to construct barracks and other



buildings. Eventually, 220 workers were assigned to the unit. Their major projects included fish and fawn rearing, road building and maintenance, trail improvement, reforestation including the planting of red Spruce and forest conservation. Their work is evident today throughout Pisgah National Forest. The camp closed in 1936 and

the program was abolished by Congress in 1942.

In North Carolina the CCC had sixty-six camps, employing 13,600 men, in forty-seven counties. One of the earliest (the first by some accounts) was Camp Pisgah Forest, assigned the number F-1 and occupied on May 18, 1933. In early 1934 the name was changed to Camp John Rock for a nearby rock formation. ¢

Verne Rhoades

Verne Rhoades Sr. was one of the first scientific foresters in Western North Carolina. He played important roles in the creation of Pisgah National Forest and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and was well known as a visionary civic and business leader in Asheville.

Pisgah Forest became the nucleus of the Pisgah National Forest, the first established under the Weeks Act, and Biltmore Forest School graduate Verne Rhoades became its first supervisor, in 1916.

Presentation of the First Leisz Leadership Award

By NAFSR and NMFSH

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees and the National Museum of Forest Service History have jointly presented a founding award for sustained Forest Service leadership to former Associate Chief Douglas R. Leisz. The award is called the Leisz Leadership Award. Consideration will be given to presenting it in the future



every three years at the National Forest Service Reunion if a deserving candidate is identified. The award was presented to Doug at the Eldorado National Forest headquarters in Placerville, CA on August 14 by Tom Thompson, President of the National Museum of Forest Service History, and Al West, representing the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. A group of friends were on hand to help congratulate Doug on this special recognition. Acknowledgement of this presentation and the establishment of this recognition will be made with video at the upcoming National Forest Service Reunion in Asheville, North Carolina in late September. Doug retired as Associate Chief in 1982 and was a former Regional Forester in the Pacific Southwest Region and also served as the Forest Supervisor on the Eldorado National Forest in the early 1960's. Doug was the founding Chair of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees and also served on the Board of the National Museum of Forest Service History for many years. Doug's passion, dedication, and commitment to lead the Forest Service and support it through continuing efforts in both of these organizations over many years inspired the two respective Boards to establish this award in his honor. ¢

Treasurer's Report

We had 30 paid members for the 2017/2018 year. During the 2015/2016 year, we had 47 paying members. If you can't remember your status, contact Joan Oliver at 505-449-8370 or email missbrandydog@yahoo.com. You can make Check to: Treasure Valley Forest Service Old Timer's Club and mail to: Joan Oliver, 11134 W. Bridgetower Dr., Boise, ID 83709.



As of November 2018, our treasury totaled \$559.53. Your dues pay for the club furnished items for the annual picnic, lunches for guest speakers, newsletter mailing expenses, and other miscellaneous items as needed. ¢

Annual Picnic

The Annual Picnic was held at the Municipal Park; Shelter #1; 500 South Walnut Street, Boise, ID on June 20. The club furnished chicken, coffee, bottled water, plates, cups, silver ware (plastic) cups, napkins. Elections were held and the same officers will continue for another year. Mike Williamson, Boise National Forest Acting Public Information Officer, updated the retirees on current events. ☐

Officers 2017-2018	Name	Phone
President	F. Carl Pence	208-468-9318
Vice President	Woody Williams	208-672-1390
Secretary-Treasurer	Joan Oliver	505-449-8370
Program Chairman	Neil Hitchcock	208-327-0859
Newsletter Editor	Barney Lyons	208-899-0356
Historian	Gene Brock, Chairman	208-401-4215 208-917-0511
R4 Region Old Timers' Board Members	F. Carl Pence Frank Elder	208-468-9318 208-369-4043

Some pictures from the picnic:

Forest Service Employees

The retirees passed a motion to welcome active Forest Service Employees into the Treasure Valley Forest Service Retiree organization at the annual meeting. Application and instructions on page 9.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER MEETING

NO MEETING CLOSE TO THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM-

PLACE: GOLDEN CORRAL

DECEMBER 19, 12:00 NOON TO 1:30 PM

PROGRAM: DVD PRESENTATION ON *FIRST IN FORESTRY*

JANUARY MEETING AND PROGRAM-

PLACE: GOLDEN CORRAL

JANUARY 16, 12:00 NOON TO 1:30 PM

PROGRAM: TBA

FEBRUARY MEETING AND PROGRAM-

PLACE: GOLDEN CORRAL

FEBRUARY 20, 12:00 NOON TO 1:30 PM

PROGRAM: TBA

First in Forestry

Carl Alwin Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School

The December program will feature the 28-minute adapted film of *America's First Forest*, which focuses on Carl Schenck and the Biltmore Forest School. It was the only forestry school where students worked every day in the woods.

The Emmy Award-winning film *America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment*, which was 55-minute broadcast version, tells the story of how the German forester came to America in 1895 to manage the forests at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. He not only helped restore the land there, he established the country's first forestry school and helped launch the American conservation movement. Many of the challenges that were faced then are still challenges for land managers today. We hope many of

you can attend the December meeting and learn about the foresights, failures and achievements of individuals in the late 1800's. †

Vicki Christiansen

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that Vicki Christiansen will serve as the 19th Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service. Christiansen has been serving as Interim Chief since March of this year. Following the announcement, Secretary Perdue issued the following statement:

"As a former wildland firefighter and fire manager, Chief Christiansen knows what's needed to restore our forests and put them back to work for the taxpayers. With seven years at the Forest Service and 30 years with the states of Arizona and Washington, Vicki's professional experience makes me confident that she will thrive in this role and hit the ground running."



Vicki Christiansen has been serving as the interim Chief at the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service in Washington, DC. Prior to that she was Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry where she had oversight of Fire and Aviation Management, Tribal Relations, Forest Health Protection,

Cooperative Forestry, Grey Towers and Conservation Education. She joined the Forest Service in 2010 as the Deputy Director of Fire and Aviation Management. Vicki has worked extensively on the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy bringing her experience as a line officer, land manager, wildland fire fighter and State Forester to the effort.

Prior to joining the Forest Service, she served as the Arizona State Forester and Director of the Arizona Division of Forestry. She was responsible for the protection of 22 million acres of state and private lands in Arizona, including wildland fire management. As State Forester, Vicki represented Arizona at the national and state level on forest health and wildland fire issues. She was Chair of the Wildland Fire Committee for the National Association of State Foresters.

Vicki also served as the Washington State Forester where she had a 26-year career with Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She started as a wildland fire fighter while still in college and held many different positions at Washington DNR with a strong emphasis in operations, managing state trust lands and regulating forest practices on state and private lands in Washington State. Her first permanent position was as a forester responsible for the reforestation of state trust lands in the Mt. Saint Helens blast zone. Vicki has been a wildland fire fighter and fire manager for 36 years. She has numerous credentials in the wildland fire program with a special expertise as a fire line-blasting advisor. Vicki has a B.S. in Forest Management from the University of Washington (1983, cum laude). She is married to a Fire Chief (retired) and has two grown sons. †

Sawtooth News

Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor Kit Mullen retired at the end of August. Among the many accomplishments during her four-year tenure as the Sawtooth Forest Supervisor, she oversaw the planning for the Hemingway Boulders and Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wilder-ness areas, and supervised the construction and move to the new Sawtooth Forest headquarters in Jerome after being located in Twin Falls for 32 years.

Jim DeMaagd became the Forest Supervisor after serving as the Acting Forest Supervisor for the Sawtooth since September 1. Since 2015, Jim has served as the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Mt. Hood NF in the Pacific Northwest Region. DeMaagd says he is excited about the opportunity to be part of the Intermountain Region and the Sawtooth National Forest. †

***We Celebrate the Life of this Friend and
Extend Our Sympathy to the Families***

Mary K. (Stuart Salyer) Sprague

Mary Katherine (Stuart Salyer) Sprague, 81, passed away November 21 at St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center.

Mary K., as she was known to all, was born February 10, 1937 at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise. Her father, Raymond Stuart and mother, Ella MacDaniel Stuart, provided a warm and loving home to Mary K. and her older brother, Tom Stuart.

Mary K. attended St. Teresa's Academy in Boise for



primary school, St. Mary's School for 7th and 8th grade and then returned to St. Teresa's for high school. From there, she attended Marylhurst College in Portland, Oregon for a year before returning to receive an A.A. degree from Boise Junior College in 1957. A lifelong learner, Mary K. also completed

continuing education in accounting at the University of Alaska in 1989 and received certified travel agent training in 1995.

In 1959, Mary K. married Ken Salyer, a Forest Service smokejumper, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Boise. In 1960, Mary K. and Ken welcomed son Michael R. Salyer into the world. In 1965, Mary K. experienced tragedy when Ken was killed in a plane crash in the Idaho mountains while serving as a spotter on a smokejumper flight.

In 1966, Mary K. married G. Lynn Sprague, also a Forest Service smokejumper, at St. Mary's. In 1968, Mary K. and Lynn welcomed son Joseph A. Sprague into the world.

As Lynn continued his career with the Forest Service, he and Mary K., Mike and Joe moved several times including stops in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Hailey, Idaho, Salt Lake City, Utah, Alturas, California, Washington, DC (twice), Juneau, Alaska, and San Francisco, California before permanently returning to Boise in 1999. Mary K. enjoyed making a loving home for her family and establishing countless new friendships in each location.

Even with the various moves, Mary K. enjoyed her own professional pursuits with over 30 years of diversified experience in customer service and administrative support. She was especially proud of contributions at the

Pentagon Federal Credit Union where she was selected as a team leader on a major computer conversion project. She also made key contributions with several federal and state government agencies including the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture where, in her role as travel specialist, she developed a new training session for national and state offices. Later in her career, Mary K. enthusiastically took up travel planning and became a certified travel agent.

Mary K's giving spirit led her to volunteer in many capacities over the decades. Always an avid supporter of her hometown, she happily volunteered for the Boise River Festival in 1999 and 2000, and proudly supported the [Special Olympics](#) World Winter Games held in Boise in 2009. She maintained her lifelong tie to St. Mary's Church in Boise with volunteer service there, as well.

Mary K. loved to travel. She and Lynn made memorable trips to Europe, Australia and through the Panama Canal. The couple made a special trip to the Holy Land in 2010. Visiting the biblical sites of Israel and Jordan was important to Mary K. and was an extension of her strong, lifelong Catholic faith. While there, and to the delight of her traveling companions, Mary K. overcame severe back pain to ride a camel for several miles in Jordan's Petra region.

Mary K. made her strongest contribution as a wife, mother and grandmother. Fiercely loyal and filled with unconditional love, she cared for her family with truly amazing grace. She is survived by Lynn, her husband of 52 years; by her sons and their wives Mike (Carmen) of Boise and Joe (Jennifer) of the Seattle area; her grandchildren Cristine, Nicholas, Savannah, Matthew, Natalie, Anthony and Emily; and great-grandchild Robert. Her affection and devotion to them was limitless.

The family appreciates the excellent care she received over the past year at St. Alphonsus, St. Luke's and Riverview Rehabilitation.

Friends and loved ones are welcome to attend a Rosary service in Mary K's honor at St. Mary's Catholic Church (2612 W. State St) at 6pm on November 29, her funeral Mass at St. Mary's at 11am on November 30, and an Irish wake and celebration of life in Mary K's memory from 2pm-4pm on November 30 at the Cottonwood Grille (913 W. River St in Boise).

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Mary K's memory to the Mary K. (Stuart) Sprague Scholarship Fund at St. Mary's School, part of the Catholic

community she felt blessed to stay connected to for over 8 decades.

Capitol Christmas Tree

The tradition of the Capitol Christmas Tree, or "The People's Tree," began in 1964 when Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John W. McCormack (D-MA) placed a live Christmas tree on the Capitol lawn. This tree lived three years before succumbing to wind and root damage.

In 1970, the Capitol Architect asked the U.S. Forest Service to provide a Christmas tree. Since then, a different national forest has been chosen each year to provide "The People's Tree." This national forest also works with state forests to provide companion trees that are smaller Christmas trees for offices in Washington, D.C.

It is a great honor not only for the National Forest that provides the Capitol Christmas Tree, but for the entire state. From the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina and the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan to the Klamath National Forest in California and the Santa Fe in New Mexico, National Forests across the country have had the opportunity to showcase a tree from their Forest at the Capitol. In 2017, Montana's Kootenai National Forest provided the Capitol Tree..

Each summer, the Superintendent of the Capitol Grounds (currently Ted Bechtol) visits the National Forest that will provide the tree. During his visit he consults with local Forest Service staff in search of the perfect tree. They're looking for a healthy specimen, a full canopy, a conical shape with dense foliage, a straight trunk and the appropriate height. Size is especially important because the tree needs to fit in the tractor trailer for its cross-country journey.

Seventy-five companion trees accompany the Capitol Christmas tree from the Forest, ranging from 6-25 feet tall, the companion trees add a festive feel to various government offices in Washington D.C.

Each year, the state that provides the Capitol Christmas Tree also provides thousands of homemade ornaments, many provided by children. The ornaments decorate the Capitol Christmas Tree as well as the companion trees. In 2017, Montana provided more than 11,000 ornaments (passing the 8,000 goal) as well as 70 originally crafted tree skirts.

Once the Forest Service cuts and packages the Capitol Christmas Tree and companion trees, the trees start on a journey to the Capitol. Depending on the year, the Tree may visit as many as 25 communities before arriving in Washington D.C. Each community holds a unique gathering and celebration that provides an opportunity for Americans to see the Tree and wish it well on its journey.

The Willamette National Forest in Oregon will provide the 2018 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

The Payette National Forest provided an Engelmann Spruce in 2016.

Source (Five things You might not know about the Capitol Christmas tree by Hannah Ettema)

Forest Service Badge

When Gifford Pinchot was chief of the Bureau of Forestry, he recognized the need for a unique badge of authority his employees would need while performing work in such remote areas. In 1905 once the shift of transferring the forest reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture occurred, Pinchot set out to get a new official badge for the forest rangers. There had been a previous nickel-plated, round badge the General Land office used prior, but Pinchot needed something more unique and signifying of the Forest Service.

Pinchot announced a contest among the Washington Office employees for the creation of the badge. Many designs were submitted, but the judges felt none of them included a generally recognized symbol of authority. This group of judges agreed with the great amount of responsibilities the new Forest Service was to perform, it required a symbol to help assure the public recognized employees of the agency and the respect for its offices in Washington DC and the field would be recognized.

Edward T. Allen & William C. Hodge, Jr., who were two of the judges, felt strongly that a conventional shield was the best design. In the spring of 1905, both men who were Washington Office employees, were in Missoula, Montana in a railroad depot. They were attracted to the shield of the Union Pacific Railroad. Allen started tracing the shield, then added a large "U" & "S" on the sides. Hodge who was watching the drawing, decided himself to sketch a fur tree, he then laid the sketch between the two letters. They quickly wrote "Forest Service" and "Department of Agriculture" across the top and bottom. Pinchot and his assistant were quite pleased with the design and called off a second planned contest.

On July 1st, 1905 (almost 113 years ago) the badge was issued to all field offices for use. Two years later Pinchot issued an order on wearing the badge:

"Hereafter the badge will be worn only by officers of the Washington Office when on inspection or administrative duty on the National Forests, by inspectors, and by supervisor's, rangers, and guards and other officers assigned to administrative duty under the supervisors"

There were a few moderations to the badge, but as of 1938, there has been no change to our badge.

Open Season November 12 -December 10

The Office of Personnel Management announced September 26 the 2018 premium rate for the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. The enrollee share of premiums for non-postal employees and all annuities will increase an average of 1.5% in 2019, the lowest in 23 years (since 1996). Dental and Vision Programs are also included in the open season. BENEFEDS is an enrollment and premium processing system sponsored by OPM that you must use to enroll in Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). You enroll securely online at www.BENEFEDS.com or telephone at 1-877-888-3337.

2019 premium charts for all Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) Program are available at:

www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/premiums .

General information about Open Season can be found at: www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season .

OPM also has a guide for retirees and employees near retirement that gives an overview of FEHB, FEDVIP, FEGLI and long term health care at:

www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/Guide-me/Retirees-Survivors/.

Several companies such as Humana Health Plan of Ohio and Blue Cross are offering a third Plan option.

Make sure you do not pay more than you have to! In most cases, Self-Plus One premiums are lower, but in some plans Self-Plus --One is higher than the premium for Self and Family. ^φ

Some articles that members may read on wildfires and air pollution.

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/report-wildfires-and-air-pollution-a-hidden-hazard-16651>

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/report-wildfires-undermining-air-pollution-progress-21753>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2018/08/07/wildfire-smoke-is-wreaking-havoc-on-the-air-quality-in-the-western-u-s/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.81a413d7a459

<http://www.weathernationtv.com/news/improving-wildfire-smoke-and-air-quality-forecasts/>

Membership Application

Name- _____

Spouse's
Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Dues

Amt. Enclosed \$ _____

Annual dues are \$6.00 per couple or \$3.00 for single members or widows/widowers. The dues for members at the age of 90 are waived.

If you can't remember your status, call Joan at 505-449-8370 or email at missbrandydog@yahoo.com

Make Check to:

Treasure Valley Forest Service Old Timer's Club

And Mail to: Joan Oliver, 11134 W. Bridgetower Dr., Boise, ID 83709.

The Old Timers Club of the Boise Area was organized in 1950: its purpose is to protect, perpetuate and preserve the traditions and "esprit de corps" of the Forest Service, its employees and retirees, and to maintain contacts and good fellowship among those retired and those nearing retirement. We strive to maintain that wonderful "family feeling" which is characteristic of Forest Service employees, nation-wide. November 15, 2006, the Old Timer's Club of Boise was changed to the Treasure Valley Forest Service Old Timers' Club to represent a larger area than just Boise. The Club has filed as an unincorporated nonprofit association with the Idaho Secretary of State. ^φ